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## **Fin Erosion, Liver Condition, and Trace Contaminant Exposure in Fishes from Three Coastal Regions**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Fin erosion in demersal fishes is one example of a response common to several regions receiving waste discharges. The regions include southern California, Puget Sound, and New York. Although the precise causes of the disease remain undetermined, fin erosion appears to result from the exposure of susceptible species to contaminated sediments. The present study demonstrates that in these three regions, the levels of total PCB's in muscle, liver, and brain tissues were higher in fishes with fin erosion from contaminated sites than in apparently unaffected specimens from control sites. PCB exposure may contribute to the development of the disease.

A second response common to the three regions involves changes in the size and/or lipid content of the liver. This response also may be related to chlorinated hydrocarbon exposure.

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